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SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT WOMEN.

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Owing to war-time conditions it is now impossible to have as much matter set up on Wednesdays as we have hitherto been able to do. We therefore beg that articles and letters should be sent in not later than Tuesday morning, first post.

Notes and News.

Munitions Bill Amendment Act.

The provisions of this Bill are not entirely satisfactory, but they make the Bill considerably better than it was.

The provision for the presence of women assessors in cases concerning women and girls is one that will be received with satisfaction by all women in the Kingdom. The N.U. took part in the agitation to secure this reform, both at Headquarters and through several of its societies, and the unanimity of all women's societies on this question is a matter that Mr. Lloyd George did well to notice.

With regard to the wages of women, we rejoice to see that the Government is taking power to enforce the rate of wages it thinks just for the women employed in the making of munitions, not only in Government factories, but in all controlled establishments, and the number of these is daily increasing.

It still remains to be seen, of course, what rate of wages the Ministry of Munitions will fix, and how uniformly it will use the power to enforce it. But it is now possible to hope that the principle of equal pay for equal work will not only be talked about but acted upon in the future. And if it is not, we now know upon whom the responsibility will rest. The enlargement of the definition of munition work to include those establishments which produce the power and light used in munition factories will enormously extend the scope of the Act, and it is to be hoped that in taking up such a heavy responsibility for wages and conditions the Government has determined to prove a model employer.

Post-War Problems.

Lord Parker's suggestion, made in the House of Lords on December 14th, that a Joint Committee of both Houses should be appointed to consider and report on the problems which will arise after the war in relation to the return of citizen-soldiers to industrial pursuits, raises questions of vital importance to labour, and women-workers in particular. Women's patriotism has been appealed to. They have been asked to fill the gaps in the ranks of labour at home, so as to release men to fight in the trenches. They have been told that by so doing they are taking the part assigned to them in the great national task which demands soldiers and sailors, money and labour. Overwhelming testimony shows how magnificently women responded to the call to work for the nation. When the readjustment of industrial conditions takes place after the war, what is their place to be?

Are the women who have borne a man's part (sometimes more than a man's part) in the work of national defence, and earned thereby the voter's qualification according to the militarist test, to be excluded still from citizens' rights? Are they to be trampled out of the trades because, like coolie-labourers, they have no votes? For to be voteless is to be forgotten.

Safeguards for Men.

The Women's Co-operative Guild is urging the Co-operative movement to recognise *in time* that the problem ahead of us will be how to protect the interests of both women and men, and has drafted the following rules with a view to regulating the admission of women into trades, while preventing the undercutting of men by women. They ask—

1. That fully experienced women should be taken on at the men's rates.

2. That partially trained women should be taken on at the women's rate and be advanced to the men's rate in one to nine months, according to the extent of their previous training.

3. Untrained women to be taken on at the women's rate and to be advanced to the men's rate at the end of the year by quarterly instalments.

It is not a moment too soon. The policy of exclusion of women from trade unions can already be judged on results.

A Danger Signal.

"It has to be recognised," says a writer on "Women's Wages" in *The New Statesman*, "that any proposal which aims at the wholesale dismissal of women and the re-closing of trades to women after the war, is doomed to failure. . . . In countless occupations men will find women's labour established and competing against them where it did not compete against them before . . . it will not be possible to turn them out of the shops. *And if women's wages are on a lower scale than men's, it is the lower scale which will inevitably prevail.* The improvements and modifications in machine tools are, besides, rapidly making the skilled workman unnecessary." A writer in *The Engineer*, writing from an employer's point of view, is quoted as making the highly significant statement that workshop costs in future may be reduced by the employment of women, and that if the women will "agree to accept a lower scale of wages than 'skilled' men, they may, by their preponderance of numbers, for some years to come be in a position to defy the unions." Here is the danger-signal, openly hoisted!

"Together they Should Stand or Fall."

"Labour should note the testimony," is the conclusion of the writer in *The New Statesman*, "that it is only trade unionism which can prevent cheap women's labour reducing the wages of men. For trades unions to try to act by keeping women out of the trade is not only unfair to women, but, in the conditions which result from the war, will be doomed to failure. Under these circumstances, there is only one adequate defence for

Labour, as the Women's Co-operative Guild have seen, namely, to insist that women's and men's scale of wages shall be the same. It is no good talking about 'equal pay for equal work,' for that much-abused doctrine provides too many loopholes for the evasive employer. In whatever trade or occupation women's labour can be used as alternative to men's, the trade union will have to fight for a minimum time wage, which, after any necessary probation for either sex, is the same for man and woman. The critical nature of the fight must be obvious to everyone. It can only be won by a reversal of the ordinary trade unionists' attitude towards women's labour, and by his late awakening to the elementary fact that it is only by organising her labour that his own organisations can be protected."

Blind-Alley Employment for Girls.

About a thousand girls, stated Mr. Pike Pease on Monday, in reply to a question from Mr. Whitehouse, are now employed as temporary messengers in the Post Office. Mr. Whitehouse asked whether the interests of these girls, as to continued education and future absorption into the service, are being safeguarded by the Standing Committee on Boy Labour in the Post Office, and, if so, whether one or two women would be added to the Standing Committee, or a similar Committee appointed to deal with girl messengers only. To this, Mr. Pike Pease replied that as the employment of the girls was purely temporary and would cease after the war, the question of absorption would not arise, and that he feared it would not be practicable to make special arrangements for their education during the comparatively short time they are in Post Office employment. But, why not? The girls may continue their duties for a year or more—duties which certainly do not fit them for ordinary women's work—and what are they to do if they find themselves suddenly thrown out of employment?

In these days, blind-alley employments are as dangerous for girls as for boys, since a larger number than ever must be prepared to be self-supporting all their lives. Girls who are performing useful, though humble, public services, have, therefore, a fair claim that their interests should be as carefully safeguarded as those of lads. There seems no reason, on the face of it, why they should not be absorbed into the regular Post Office staff as learners, sorters, &c., or, if this is impossible, why facililties should not be given for technical education.

Discrediting Women's Work.

The Manchester Guardian calls attention to the unsatisfactory way in which women are being obtained for Civil Service work. "They are being appointed either by inside influence or by recourse to a Labour Exchange, or a typists' employment agency, and very often they are quite unsuited and unqualified for the work they are given to do. The result is tending to discredit women's work in a sphere in which it could be permanently used to the benefit both of the State and the women of the educated class, and is giving some show of reason to the arguments advanced by those prejudicial against admitting women into the Civil Service."

Superstitions About Women.

Among the many current beliefs concerning women, there are a fair number of myths which it is extremely difficult for the average man to put away among the fairy-tales which belong to the infancy of economics. These myths still survive in the twentieth century, exerting a widespread mischievous influence, because it is to no man's interest to examine them or to explode them. The whole field of inquiry into superstitions concerning women is ready to yield an abundant harvest; but the reapers are few. The fact is, that while there is an eager audience of anthropologists and others ready to hear all about Central African folk-lore, curiosities of the *couvade*, or taboo in Tahiti or Volhynia, nobody has attention to spare for the rational inquirer into the extraordinary conditions under which British women live, and the various taboos imposed upon them in the name of Nobody-any-longer-knows-what. Perhaps that is because a large number of them are in lively operation among us.

Chief among the taboos is the taboo of money. Women are not now forbidden by the laws of the tribe to eat oysters, though they are still not allowed to be present at certain magical ceremonies, and they are obliged by tribal etiquette to work as much as possible out of sight, while all gainful occupations are prejudicial to them. Money is very bad for women. Work does not do them much harm so long as they are not paid for it, and so long as they do the work in "the home." There they may work for twenty hours out of the twenty-four; they are capable of feats of endurance, of miracles, of living on one straw a day; nothing is too hard, too heavy, too dull, for a woman so long as she does it at home. As an eminent bacteriologist lately said in a lyrical outburst: "She is at rest in the house of her husband!"

If the British woman works elsewhere she has to smart for it. Regulations made by the tribe to protect the health and strength of their males do not apply to her. Like the French peasant before the Revolution, she is "corvéable et taillable à volonté"—liable to have almost any burden and any tax imposed upon her without her assent. To her labour by day is added her woman's work in the home at night. The greatest of all taboos weighs upon her. She may work—she may take hard, dirty, unhealthy work, work that overtaxes her powers—but she must be paid as little as possible. Three reasons are always brought forward for paying her low wages for her labour. (1) She needs less to live upon. (2) She is only a temporary worker, who may be removed by marriage from the market, and so she needs no provision for old age. (3) She has only herself to support.

The first superstition would require a whole chapter to itself in the history of modern folk-lore. It may be said, briefly, that the working-woman eats less than a man because she cannot get as much to eat. The male bread-winner has behind him a conspiracy of home workers, who secure for him the best procurable supply of food. The woman-worker, on half rations and double tides of work, is under-fed because she earns so little; and then, because she is under-fed, she earns less. Superstition number two, alas! is fading away before the dreadful realities of war. The probability of marriage is less of a factor; if women-workers do not themselves put by for old age, to whom shall they look? The third superstition has been the subject of a very careful examination by the Executive Committee of the Fabian Women's Group, who have just published a report* based upon an inquiry begun three years ago.

"The supposed lack of dependants," they declare, "has constantly been used as an argument to explain and excuse an economic position, which for the vast mass of women-workers, is intolerable."

"The Group maintain that their report can be used as a basis for further investigation by students of various opinions and with differing points of view, and that its figures are sufficiently surprising to require the reconsideration of many tacit assumptions about women-workers, their dependants, and their wages." And, indeed, the tale told by the figures is astonishing enough, and even startling, for they show what large numbers of women have others to support out of their meagre earnings.

A brief account is given in the report of the means of collecting data. Inquiries were set on foot in every town where investigators could be found. Representative groups of women workers were selected as units for the inquiry, and the same set of questions put to all members of the group. Returns were received from Liverpool, Southport, Manchester, Birmingham, London, and Reading, and from a number of small towns and villages. Care was taken to make the inquiry as representative as possible; all classes of women, from doctors and actresses, clerks, and pharmacists, and civil servants, to field workers and factory hands. In some cases voluntary societies were able to assist the inquiry; and the Women's Industrial Council furnished material collected in a wide investigation into the conditions and work of married women.

The questions issued were six in number.

1. Do your earnings maintain you without assistance? (It will be helpful if you state amount of earnings.)
2. Have you any persons entirely dependent upon you for support. (If so, how many, and are they children or adults?)
3. Do you make any contribution whatsoever to—
   (*a*) The support of any other person, child or adult.
   (*b*) The upkeep of any household, over and above the cost of your own board and lodging.
4. Have you passed your twenty-first birthday? (It will be helpful if you state your exact age.)

* Wage-earning Women and their Dependants. By Ellen Smith. (The Fabian Society, Totholl Street, Westminster. Price 1s.)

5. Are you married, single, or a widow?
6. Trade or profession.

About 2,830 forms were returned, only about 10 per cent. of the number sent out. The greatest difficulty was met with in getting information from industrial workers; fear lest the inquiry should lead in some way to lowering wages was given in one case as a reason for refusing to fill in the forms. But another objection to which the Fabian Group is inclined to attach more weight, is the "dislike found among women of all classes to disclose anything about their personal affairs, particularly with regard to money—the outcome of the early Victorian idea that it is degrading for a gentlewoman to work for money, and that her men folk are able and willing to support her." If this is really the case, the victim of the delusion does her best to foster the very prejudice for which she suffers so bitterly.

Out of the 2,830 cases, 380 are regarded as not entirely self-supporting, while forty are classed as doubtful; but the great majority—2,410 are self-supporting; 1,405 of them being wholly or partly answerable for the support of others as well. Which is to say that about 50 per cent. of the total numbers of women wage-earners were shown to have dependants upon their earnings; and 366 out of these 1,405 were found, moreover, to be the breadwinners of their families (page 10 of the Report).

The results of some other investigations give somewhat lower figures.

In the course of the inquiries made in Reading by Dr. Bowley (quoted on page 19), it appeared that about 37 per cent. of women wage-earners were supporting themselves and partially or entirely supporting others. Statistics from Northampton, where 31 per cent. of the women wage-earners had others depending upon them, have some interesting accompanying details. The average wage is high, but the number of women supporting themselves is also high.

"In 16 families, where the spending amount per head was less than 5s. per week, 19 women wage-earners were found, of whom three were supporting themselves only, and 13 were keeping, in addition to themselves, 14½ persons among them."

In Warrington, again, where the average family wage was high, 71.66 per cent. of the women were entirely supporting themselves, 66 of them also contributing to the upkeep of the family; but in seven other cases women were the sole breadwinners, maintaining 18 persons (9 adults and 9 children).

Other inquiries, notably at Liverpool, revealed a state of destitution which may well be called appalling. But even here, where the woman's highest wage recorded was 13s. 6d. per week, and only 16 women (out of 67 recorded cases) were getting 10s. or more, while 10 earned less than 5s., in 20 families the only bread-winner was a woman. In 15 other homes the livelihood depended on the earnings of a woman, with the help of one or more children, or, in some cases, of another woman.

In London, out of a total number of 500 cases, 320 were assisting in the upkeep of the family, and 82 of these were the only bread-winners—maintaining among them, in addition to themselves, an aggregate of 38 adults and 228 children. In 15 cases, however, one of the adults was a man out of work, and, therefore, dependent, only for the time being, upon his wife's earnings.

Turning from manual labour to other employments, the statistics collected in May, 1912, by the Civil Service Typists' Association, show about the same percentage (50 per cent.) of wage-earners who are supporting others, if the junior clerks are excluded.

In the teaching profession, the recorded number of dependants is the highest of all, but the amount of salary paid is also the highest recorded.

The investigators point out that though the actual numbers dealt with are small, compared with the number of working women in England and Wales, the figures have been collected with scrupulous care and impartiality. No attempt has been made to select groups of workers where women with dependants are likely to predominate; and a deliberate effort was made to take the survey over as wide an area as possible, and to include as many classes of employment as were available.

They feel, therefore, that it is not unwarrantable to apply their conclusions to the total number of working women in England and Wales. They have arrived at the conclusion that 15 per cent. are not entirely self-supporting, and that these seem to be mostly young girls. Another 33 per cent. support themselves alone; while "rather over 51 per cent. of the women workers of England and Wales are supporting a mass of persons, the total of which, counting themselves, approaches three times their own number. If we distribute this responsibility over the whole of the self-supporting women, which form 85 per cent. (4,000,000) of the women workers, we find that they support among them (including themselves) a total more than equal to twice their own number."

Another point is also made:—

"Hitherto it has been taken for granted that the wives and families of the whole body of men in work were dependants. But it would appear, if the conclusions are correct, that the total burden up to now attributed to working men, is shared to an appreciable extent by their wives and daughters.

The contributions of daughters especially to the family expenses are by no means negligible; and it may be noted in this connection that in many cases the daughter also gives help with the work of the house (page 22).

It is impossible, after reading this conscientious and most careful piece of research, which we must commend to our readers, to argue any longer that a woman has only herself to work for, while a man, by his own unaided exertions, is supporting a wife and family. Wife and daughters are taking some appreciable portion of the total burden where they are not entirely self-supporting. And probably one-half the number of women-workers have burdens to bear upon their own shoulders without help from men.

Interviews with Representative Women.

V.—MRS. HUBERT HANSON,

WORKS MANAGER, THREE ARTS WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT FUND.

At the very beginning of the war the artistic professions—music, painting, and acting—were hard hit, and even now, with things far brighter than they were a year ago, the outlook, for all but the fortunate few, is none too rosy. So to meet the distress among women artists the Three Arts Women's Employment Fund was founded, and women whose names are household words took up the battle for their weaker sisters. WORK, not doles, was what was needed, and since their usual work had ceased, it must needs be new and untried work that they were given. Courage was mated with Common Sense, and from the union sprang the little life of the workrooms, "with me as its nurse," as Mrs. Hanson, their works manager, remarked when I called at her office at 26, Somerset Street—a five-storeyed house that Mr. Gordon Selfridge lent them when they outgrew their first nursery at 10, York Place.

"And some day," Mrs. Hanson continued, "I hope to see my child grown sturdy and strong, forging ahead in the world. We've got our measles and our mumps to go through yet, but, mind you, we are *alive*. Do you know that we have had close on 250 women through our workrooms in the past year; and that we have placed no fewer than 430 others in touch with work outside? And towards the whole of the work—work that in many cases has kept the older women off the rates, the younger ones off the streets—we have received just exactly one guinea in donations since last April. Why? For the simple reason that when we have needed money to keep going the Big People have come forward to help the little ones, and our Committee—among the working members of which are numbered Miss Ashwell, Miss Asquith, Miss Braithwaite, Mme. Clara Butt, Miss Collier, Miss Marie Lohr, Miss Nethersole, Miss Magdelen Ponsonby, and Miss May Whitty—our Committee has seen to it that the public have received full value for its money. I daresay you will remember the big lunch we held at the Savoy last July. We have been living on the proceeds ever since!

"Business men have told me, time and again, that we cannot hope to pay our way; that our labour is too unskilled, too fluctuating, too ready to go back to its old love—the stage, the easel, or whatever it may be; that the odds against us are too heavy. And I am here to show them that they are wrong; that courage counts, that women in new and untried ways are going to make good. As a charity we have justified our existence a thousand times. Some day I hope to justify it as a business; some day I hope to show these workrooms self-supporting—co-operative—with profits that go in increased wages to the women who will have made it pay its way.

"After the war we shall be wanted even more, in one sense, than we are now, for by that time I think we shall have driven home the thin end of the wedge for English home-made toys,

and that where business firms have lacked the time, the courage —what you will—to take up their manufacture, we shall have done it for them. Already we have accounts opened with 800 customers in England alone, and I don't think you could mention a house of any standing in London that does not buy from us. Look at our 'Cuddley One'! That doll has been stuffed by a Queen, has been bought by Queens, and every British baby yells for it. That doll has its grotesque imitators far and wide, and if that is not flattery, what is?

"Yes, I believe in our work. I am proud of it; and, more than all, I am proud of our workers. What pluck they have! If only I could tell you some of the stories that unfold themselves, bit by bit to me! It isn't just for fun that sixty-seven women—always sixty-seven, no matter how many may get back to their own work—sit from 8.30 in the morning until 5.30 every evening, day in and day out, sewing, machining, stuffing, painting, fixing, finishing, and then beginning it all over again. And yet, believe me, it is a good deal more fun than the time that they have been through, most of them; the sort of Hell that they have met smiling, with their backs against the wall!

"And do you think that this year is to count for nothing; that anyone is going to let this work go under? I tell you that they *can't*."

A Nursery Training School.

Among the newer occupations for educated girls, that of the trained children's nurse is likely to offer an increasingly good opening, since the advantages of the trained over the untrained nurse are being more and more realised.

Four years ago the Women's Industrial Council opened a Nursery Training School at Hackney, to hold about twenty-two students and fifteen children. The number of girls wishing to be trained there, however, as well as the number of applications for certificated nurses, increased so rapidly that new and enlarged premises have been specially built at Wellgarth Road, Hampstead, which will hold, besides the staff, forty students and thirty children. The course of training, lasting one year, includes simple physiology and hygiene, as well as first-aid, home nursing, housewifery, and kindergarten work; the whole work of the house is done by the girls under the House Superintendent. There is no doubt that there is a great demand for trained nurses. In one year, between two and three hundred applications were made for them, and only sixteen had finished their course of training and were ready to take posts. The fame of the nurses has gone abroad, too, and some are working now in India, China, and other parts.

The new Nursery Training School was formally opened on December 10th by the Duchess of Marlborough, who said that the national emergency created by the war had proved two things—first, the speed with which women could adapt themselves to diverse and varied work, and, secondly, the necessity of every woman having some specific training that might enable her to secure economic independence. The modern tendency to prefer employments in factories and workshops was developing a love of freedom and a lack of discipline, which made it increasingly difficult to obtain domestic servants. She hoped they could persuade a more educated type of girl to go in for nursery training. It would be necessary, though, to raise the status of these girls, and also to improve the conditions of their lives, probably giving more freedom and, in return, expecting a higher service.

The building, which was afterwards open to inspection, shows that it has been planned to meet every requirement in the way of light and air. There is a large nursery on the ground floor, and upstairs a row of cubicles, with a long, wide passage running the whole length of the building, where the children play. Each cubicle—which is the size of a small room—is really a little nursery in itself, and contains four cots and a bed, where the nurse and the four charges whom she "mothers" sleep. In the passage, which, with its large windows overlooking the garden and fields, forms a kind of balcony, there is opposite each cubicle a low table, and here each of the little families has its meals.

Dr. Eric Pritchard, who spoke from the medical side, gave instances of cases where the babies or young children had been in bad health or disobedient and impossible to manage, but soon after being brought to the School there had been in every case a marked change and improvement. "All the children are happy here," Dr. Pritchard said, and added that scoldings and punishments were not known and not needed.

Correspondence.

SAFEGUARDING WOMEN WORKERS.

MADAM,—I am glad to see from your issue of December 10th that you are devoting attention to some of the problems and difficulties affecting women, especially industrially, at the present time, and that you called attention to the difficulties of women replacing men at a lower wage, to the unfair obstacles put in the way of agriculturists by the game laws, to the blind-alley employment for educated women as described in *The Times*, and to the unfair position of women railway employees.

I feel very strongly that the most urgent task for Suffragists at present is to safeguard the interests and rights of women workers, and I hope there may be organised effort on the part of the Suffrage societies to prepare for the very great problem which will face women after the war. To my mind, the very dangerous situation that is arising has been unaccountably overlooked by Suffragist optimists, who have welcomed every sign of women's greater employment, and have not investigated sufficiently the conditions and future of that employment. There has been, for instance, great rejoicing at the employment of women in munition making, whereas, in spite of all official attempts to suppress it, abundant evidence is leaking out as to the conditions—disastrous to health and efficiency, and the totally inadequate payment which is the reward of women's patriotism in munition making. I may quote as evidence which has personally come before me recently two ladies working at munition canteens in different parts of the country. In one case the works were under the War Office, in the other case under the Admiralty. In each case the ladies concerned were horrified at the disgusting sanitary arrangements, the intolerably long hours and bad conditions under which girls were working, and the utterly inadequate pay—in each case 15s. a week. In another case a foreman with a number of girls working under him declared that he was ashamed of being in charge of girls whose health was being ruined by overwork. In another case a member of a powerful trade union informed me that in his employment women were now doing highly skilled work for 25s., for which men had received 65s. a week, and he added: "Suffragists seem to think that in return for all the work they are doing 'votes for women' will be the cry after the war, but let there be no mistake about it, the men who come back will not be thinking of votes for women, but jobs for men, and the real struggle will be between the women who have undercut the men, and who are supported by the employers of cheap labour, and the men who wish to maintain the standard of living which has taken so many years to build up."

This question of industrial employment is such a pressing one that it is very greatly to be hoped that the Suffrage societies may face it now, otherwise, besides undermining the health and vitality of the nation, the present conditions—by rousing antagonism among the labour men to women—will destroy all hopes of obtaining the suffrage after the war.

M. SHEEPSHANKS.

LOWERING THE STANDARD OF REMUNERATION.

MADAM,—I enclose a letter we have just sent to the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, a very large body which is just now taking an active part in urging educated women to come forward and take the place of men clerks. They "had never considered" the question of the salaries and its effects:—

"In view of the present tendency to replace men clerks of all classes in business houses by women, we desire to bring before your Chamber the urgent necessity of insisting on equal wages for equal work.

"It is submitted by some employers that they are paying women—even well-educated women filling responsible posts—salaries wholly inadequate for the position, because they are also paying something to the former male holder of the post who may be now on active service, and an appeal is often made to the patriotism of women to do work of the kind for a most unfair remuneration.

"We would point out that in such cases no guarantee is given that, should the man unfortunately be killed, or otherwise rendered unable to resume his work after the war, the woman will then receive in full the salary previously paid to the man, if she continues to do the work.

"Nothing can be more unpatriotic than to lower the standard of remuneration for such posts in the absence of the men, by filling their places with women who, though they may rapidly become fully competent to do the work, are paid less—merely because they are women. In this way a large army of female clerical labour will be prepared to undersell men's labour on their return to civil life—a result which, from the point of view not only of women themselves but of the future reconstruction of social and economic conditions, we feel sure your organisation would deprecate."

CAROL RING.

POLITICAL AGITATION.

MADAM,—I hope the suggestion made by V. Causton in THE COMMON CAUSE will bear good fruit. We hear so much in our paper about the work being done to preserve the vital strength of the nation via "thrift," "war work," and "babies," and so little about the object which called our paper into being. It is quite possible to get all the information on these subjects from the sources which exist for the special purpose of encouraging these channels of the woman's right to serve along the well-established and recognised paths of ancient days. The justification for the existence of the N.U.W.S.S. and its paper is the constitutional demand for the vote. This demand, I suppose all Suffragists agree, is one of the vital sources of the nation, which has to be conserved. It cannot be conserved, if Suffragists allow it to be devitalised at its very source.

During war service, it seems, this demand is to be neglected, stunted, and drained of its vitality, while the organisation which should keep it alive, devotes itself entirely to the quest for bread alone, treating all infringements of the liberties and freedom of our forefathers as fit subjects for the House of Lords to play with, quite unworthy of the notice of women Suffragists.

Some of us are waiting wearily for the return of the nations to sanity, and are willing to help keep intact an organisation which may eventually do useful work for the women's cause. I hope that attitude

of mind is not misunderstood, and it is assumed we are satisfied that our organisation should stand and serve indefinitely while the very rock upon which our demand is founded is steadily and quietly undermined. This course means shipwreck. It is very thriftless, and a betrayal of the "babies."

N. O'SHEA.

THE VITAL NECESSITY FOR SELF-DENIAL.

MADAM,—It is an educational truism that a lack of imagination on the part of a student can be made up for in one of two ways, the teacher may impart ready-made the results of his own experience, or by bringing home to the student the importance of some fundamental principle may gradually lead his mind to apply it to his own particular circumstances, and thus, in the end, bring about more valuable and lasting results.

Now, it has been borne in upon me with constantly increasing force that the failure of the mass of our people as yet to realise the vital necessity of the most rigid economy on the part of each and all of us is due to want neither of heart nor of temper, but solely to our lack of imagination. Convince each non-combatant that he or she is a guardian of the Empire's honour, like his fellows in the trenches, and convince him, too, that he can only play his part in the war by the exercise of true self-denial and abstinence from all luxuries and even unnecessary comforts, and his own conscience will do the rest. In reality the dilemma is of the simplest :—

Everything we consume lessens the nation's ability to carry on the war,
BUT
We must consume something to maintain our own personal efficiency.

Somewhere between the two horns of this dilemma each one's conscience must draw the line. Guidance may be sought from others as to details, but in sober truth conscience is the final court of appeal. Shall we indulge our appetites for ease and pleasure at the cost of our fellows' lives?

ARTHUR PERCIVAL NEWTON.

United Workers, 175, Piccadilly, W.

ECONOMY OF LABOUR.

MADAM,—Your correspondent, S. B. K. Caulfield, in your issue of December 10th, claims that, in spite of the electrical and other improvements in "The House that Does its Own Work," it is difficult to find a single problem solved. But is not the great problem of domestic work the *unceasing* labour demanded, and the consequent thinking and planning perpetually? If so, and I think most housekeepers will agree with me, then surely the heating and lighting of our houses reduced to the simple operation of "pressing a button" is an enormous problem solved! When one further considers the reduction of dust and dirt and the cleanliness of cooking utensils used in electric cooking, I begin to wonder if your correspondent has ever done the work of a house heated by coal and lighted by lamps and candles.

We must abandon the idea that housework will ever be aught but work. The majority of us will be content if it can be made possible and pleasant to run our houses without a servant, and certainly a much more extensive use of electrical power seems to be the first means towards that end. True, the cost is a serious item to many, but, here again, the remedy lies in our own hands. Increase the demand for electricity and, like other things, the price will soon come within the reach of everybody. Now that other uses for gas are being found, let us seize the opportunity to demand for a most long-suffering section of the community, the mothers without servants, electrical power for the homes. Once established generally through the country, further inventions for labour-saving would soon come, and could be obtained at a reasonable figure, because of the large numbers. In Denmark, as long ago as 1908, I found remote villages served with electric light, and Denmark is a comparatively poor country! Can we not find the means by which they were able to achieve this?

ETHEL THOMPSON.

MADAM,—Mrs. Dowson's letter is very interesting, but I would like to warn the anti-microbe enthusiasts against overdoing the dust-preventing process, because after all very few of us would like our homes to resemble operating theatres. Mrs. Dowson may be interested to know that the floor arrangement of my house is simpler even than hers. All the rooms have polished wood floors, without carpets or mats, and they are very comfortable. The other floors are finished with red quarry tiles. And there are no outside steps to clean. The door handles and plates, electric switches, &c., are of ebony, which is warmer than iron. The stair and curtain rods are hollow brass tubes bronzed, so there is nothing in the house to rust. I do not know the Exeter cans. They must be a great boon where the hot water supply is limited. I would like to know how the vitreous enamel taps behave after, say, seven years' wear.

Perhaps Mrs. Duncan will be pleased to hear that there is at least one architect who shares her dislike for kitcheners. I advise her to make up her mind to have hers taken out. I never put one now into a small house where no cook is kept, and I always try to convince people who think otherwise that a range in such a house is a "back number." I think even a kitchen is unnecessary in most cases.

S. B. K. CAULFIELD, F.R.I.B.A.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK.

A happy man or woman is a better thing to find than a five pound note! He or she is a radiating focus of goodwill; and their entrance into a room is as though another candle had been lighted.

R. L. Stevenson.

The whole complex frame of society is a meshwork of duty, woven of living fibre, and the condition of its remaining sound is, that every thread of it of its own free energy shall do what it ought.

J. A. Froude.

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

The Present Position of Women's Suffrage.

When the war broke out the prospects of Women's Suffrage were good; surely, if rather slowly, the opposition had been melting away, and the support behind each move in the Parliamentary game was becoming more considerable, and it was upon this growing volume of public opinion that the real hope of the Women's Suffrage most depended.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies shared the same steady progress: year by year its membership grew, its weight and its influence increased, and its organisation spread out over the country.

Gradually, too, alongside of the progress of the Suffrage movement, other opportunities for women were being granted; education, freedom, and wage-earning work were gradually opening to them—unjustly and unequally, it is true—inadequate, limited, and badly paid, but still always increasing. It was still a misfortune to be born a girl, but a less heavy misfortune than it used to be, for the claim of women to their fair share of the world's responsibilities was beginning to be recognised.

Then came the war, cutting across all civilisation, threatening to destroy all social progress, and to fling the world back into barbarism, hatred, and confusion. It seemed inevitable that social development should come to an abrupt stop, and that the chances of Women's Suffrage should dwindle to nothing.

The scale of this war is so much greater than that of other wars, and the numbers of men who are fighting are so immense, that the consequences, whatever they may be, will affect every household in Europe, and if the liberties that women have gained are shattered by this war they will not soon recover.

It seems, however, as if this danger were not real; the position of women seems rather to have taken a great stride forward, and if this is so it is a gain that will not be lost. In England and France, and probably in Germany too, hard economic necessity seems to have stepped in on the side of women, and doors that have till now stayed obstinately closed have flown violently open. Everywhere, and in almost every way, women are stepping foward to take up the work of the world because they must, and they are not likely to forget the lessons that it teaches them. Everywhere still they are handicapped; untrained and anxious, working on unequal terms and for unequal wages, but still they are working well, and the recognition that they win now they can never lose again.

It is because of the new work that they do and the new recognition they win that the position of women will be changed in the future. The women who have carried on their husband's work, or who have earned wages for the first time, will never forget the independence of it. They will never again agree that business and politics are no concern of theirs, and when they demand their own enfranchisement they will obtain it.

This social change, which is widespread throughout the upper and middle classes, reaches also to those women who habitually earn their living. To them, for the first time, come chances of man's pay, vague and illusory chances for the most part, but deeply disturbing. For the first time they hear Cabinet Ministers talk of equal pay for equal work, and the thing, though it does not happen, excites them. Work, too, is expanding; their freedom of choice daily increases, and it is

certain that the dislocation of labour and the temporary prosperity of the country will do more to awaken these industrial women than years of propaganda. When they are awake they will demand their own enfranchisement, and when they demand it they will get it.

In the midst of all this unexpected development, the path of a Women's Suffrage Society is clear. It must show in every way it can that the liberties of women are as essential to the State as to themselves; and it must try by every means in its power to secure equal opportunities, equal work, equal treatment, and equal wages for all women workers. Above all, it must watch, and watch vigilantly, lest in their enthusiasm and their inexperience their rights are stolen from them.

Of all their liberties, political liberty, and the right to share in their own government, is, of course, the one that Suffrage Societies must guard most closely, and it is the most fundamental of them all. The N.U.W.S.S. is in no danger of forgetting this task, or of abandoning the object for which it was formed. It has, indeed, suspended its ordinary political activities, and has agreed to fall into line with the other political parties, and raise no controversial question during the present crisis. No other course is possible. To press for an immediate measure of Women's Suffrage now would be worse than useless; it could only discredit the cause it sought to advance, and could result in no progress. But the suspension of the ordinary political work does not mean that the N.U. is dead or even sleeping.

Should the position of Women's Suffrage be attacked, and the question raised from the other side, the Union would, of course, rise to defend it, and in the meantime extraordinary political work has taken the place of the demand for an immediate Government measure of Women's Suffrage. The National Union urges, and has urged in a hundred different ways since the war began, that proper training and proper provision should be given by the State to the new women workers it employs; but the folly and shortsightedness with which every department of the Government has treated every aspect of this question are almost unbelievable. The National Union has given warning, again and again, of the dangers of unfair wages, and of the future troubles that unequal pay for equal work must inevitably bring into the labour world. It has pointed out the harm that is done when women do voluntarily work for which they should be paid, or when they accept positions and wages for which their training makes them far too good, and it has urged that the training, selection, conditions, and wages of women workers are matters of vital importance which the Government has no business to continue to neglect. Considerations such as these, both in general and in detail, are now the proper work of women's societies, and by working at them with all their might the Societies of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies will help, as they have determined to help, the resources of the nation.

Ray Strachey.

Welcoming Women into Politics.

Preparations for next year's election have already begun in Denmark, and it is, of course, the women especially who have to be prepared, as they are making their début in the political drama.

That Danish women themselves realise their responsibility has been shown lately in a series of excellent courses for instruction on politics; and the anxiety of the men to add to the number of voters in their respective parties is noticed in the number of political meetings arranged specially for the women voters.

Of great interest is the meeting for women arranged by the Radical Association Left, in Copenhagen on November 4th, when there were no less than five speakers, of whom two were members of the Government.

Mrs. Elsa Munch, B.A., was the first speaker. She emphasized the necessity of women gaining political knowledge. "It does not do any longer," she said, "to skip the newspaper articles on politics, to avoid political meetings." But the women neither ought to form a "women's party," nor can they do so; they must join the party to which they feel they belong.

The Minister for Internal Affairs discoursed on the Government measures to meet the dearer times, these arrangements being such that the prices of foodstuffs are considerably lower in Denmark than in Sweden.

The chief event of the evening was the splendid speech by Edward Brandes, about Women and the Parliament, in which he expressed his pleasure that the question of Women's Suffrage was solved last June.

"In some quarters, he said, it is held that Women's Suffrage will ruin the happiness of the home. That is only nonsense, for there will be a stronger union when the wife actively shares the husband's political interest.

Another speaker mentioned how this already shows itself at the municipal elections. "One never sees so many couples arm-in-arm as on the day of election—even before breakfast."

Mr. Brandes also pointed out that there will be no more a woman's party in Parliament than there is a man's party. He ended by welcoming the women into the arena of politics.

—*Rösträt för Kvinnor.*

N.U.W.S.S Scottish Women's Hospitals.

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SERBIAN UNITS.

There has been no further communication from our Units in Serbia. A letter has been received from two members of the "Berry Unit," who, on their way through Serbia to Albania, had met some of the Scottish Women at Raska; they were then taking part in the great Serbian retreat. The writer stated that our women were doing splendid work; wherever they halt they at once commence to care for the sick and wounded men, women and children.

Our Girton and Newnham Unit, which had recently commenced work at Guevgeli, has been moved from there to Salonika. This intelligence was conveyed to the Committee by cable sent off from Salonika on December 9th, by Dr. Louise McIlroy, which stated that the Unit and equipment were safe at Salonika.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT ROYAUMONT.

The celebration of the first anniversary of our Hospital at Royaumont was held on St. Andrew's Day. Miss Ivens gave a party to commemorate the event. It took the form of a fancy-dress dance, and was most successful. It is interesting to note that there still remain at Royaumont ten of the original Unit. One of the original members left last week, namely, Dr. Hancock, who has been there from the beginning. She left to be married, and everyone has agreed that she will be greatly missed. A small supper party was given in her honour just before she left, and the good wishes of the Hospital accompany her to her new sphere.

WOMEN ASTRONOMERS.

"Women are at last to be admitted as Fellows to the Royal Astronomical Society," says *The Daily News*. "It is practically certain that five ladies—Miss Cook, Miss Warner, Miss Church, Miss Blagg, and Mrs. Wilson—will be elected Fellows of the R.A.S. next month. The Royal Geographical Society took this step three years ago. A resolution admitting women Fellows was carried at a meeting of this society no less than twenty-three years ago, and twenty-two women Fellows were elected. But the following year the opponents of the change turned up in force and rescinded the resolution at a special meeting, with the result that all the ladies admitted as Fellows in 1892 remained on the roll and were entitled to use the letters 'F.R.G.S.' after their names in spite of the subsequent resolution refusing the honour to their sex."

MILITARY HORSE DEPÔTS WITHOUT A MAN.

At three large military horse depôts at Reading, the work of attending to the horses is carried on entirely by women; there is not a single man upon the staff. Some of these women ostlers have been brought up in Australian and Canadian horse ranches, but most of them are members of the South Berks and other hunts. The depôts are convalescent homes for Army horses. They have been organised by Mr. Cecil Aldin, the sporting artist and a joint master of the South Berks Hunt.

The women working at the depôts wear caps, short coats, breeches, and gaiters. They meet the horses at the railway stations, look after them entirely while they are in the homes, and dispatch them from the railway stations when they are restored to health.

WOMEN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

Women are to fill vacancies caused by the enlistment of school attendance officers, and the L.C.C. Education Committee suggests that married as well as single women should be employed.

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TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

Notes from Headquarters.

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The office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from December 24th to December 28th, inclusive.

FOOD FOR PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

A sum of money, raised for the most part by working men in Westmorland, was entrusted to us in July, to be expended in sending parcels of food to British prisoners of war in Germany.

It was thought that, as the money was subscribed in Westmorland, some of it should be spent for the benefit of the Border Regiment, and arrangements were made with a Bureau in Switzerland to send 4 lbs. of bread every week for ten months to Sergt. Bray for distribution at Dülmen. A package containing food and comforts was also sent direct to the camp, and the following acknowledgment, just been received, tells us of its safe arrival.

"Dülmen i. Westf., den November 22nd, 1915.

"Dear Madam,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of p.c's. and one case, and I thank you and the friends who have been so kind and generous, on behalf of myself and the men of the Border Regiment. I assure you they are all very grateful. I will let you know when the others arrive.—Thanking you again, Madam, I am, yours most respectfully,

(Signed) "H. BRAY (Sergt.)."

PAYMENT OF AFFILIATION FEES.

Only those Societies whose fees, due in January, have been paid for the current year, 1915, will be entitled to send delegates to the Annual Council Meeting.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	120	3	0
Miss C. M. Forster, 16th monthly	0	5	0
Staff and Pupils of the Gloucestershire School of Domestic Science, 33rd and 34th donation, Belgian Relief	5	19	9
Mrs. M. W. Godwin	1	0	0
Mr. T. Tindle Anderson, Jun., 15th don., COMMON CAUSE ...	0	2	6
Miss Helen Sillitoe	1	1	0
Burton-on-Trent W.S.S. ...	4	0	0
Bristol W.S.S.	2	0	0
Miss I. M. Evans, 16th monthly	0	2	6
Received for the Scottish Hospital	0	18	0
	£135	11	9

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	39	0	9
Received from November 27th to December 11th:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss Cecilia Wray	3	3	0
Mrs. Elstob	0	1	0
Mrs. Gibb	0	2	6
Mrs. R. C. Atkinson	0	12	0
Mrs. Wilkinson	0	10	0
Mrs. Chas. Roden Buxton ...	0	1	0
Lady Wright	2	2	0
Mrs. Herbert	0	5	0
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Accrington W.S.S., additional	0	6	3
Evesham W.S.S.	0	10	9
Banbury W.S.S., for 1916 ...	0	19	6
	£47	13	9

There are a certain number of Box Cottages at a shilling, and dolls outfits and Red Cross Boxes, at 7s. 6d. each, left over from last year, when they were made in the National Union Work-rooms for unemployed women. These may be obtained from Miss G. W. Evans, 14, Great Smith Street.

WOMEN'S MATERNITY AND RELIEF UNIT FOR REFUGEES IN RUSSIA.

We have heard that Miss Thurstan and Miss Moberley, the Administrator and the Organiser, have arrived safely at Bergen, and should by this time be in Petrograd. On Friday a cable was received from Mr. Malcolm urging the dispatch of the personnel at the earliest possible moment. Full details of the personnel will be given next week. As regards stores, it will prove a real economy to buy at once and in large quantities. This means an urgent and immediate need for funds. We consider that we ought to make an appeal for £5,000 to meet the expenses of the first six months. The Committee would be in

a much more sound financial position if the first £1,000, which would more than cover salaries, were in hand or promised.

Will Societies help us by planning Drawing-room and other meetings as soon as possible? Organisers of working parties are asked to communicate with Miss Franklin, the Equipment Secretary. An Organiser will be available to work up a series of meetings in Federations or districts, and speakers will be provided if due notice is given.

HOSPITAL MEETINGS.

All through the winter, no doubt, our Societies will be holding Hospital Meetings, and arranging for sewing parties, to work for our wounded soldier patients. Wherever a meeting is held, or a new sewing party begins to work, will our readers please remember that the Special Hospital Number was written on purpose to help on these occasions? New workers will want to know "all about" the Hospitals when they begin to help; people whose interest has been awakened at a meeting, will be glad of the illustrated story to take home afterwards.

We have now some trade returns at the office and shall be glad to supply them to members, at the rate of one shilling per dozen of thirteen, carriage paid. Please send your orders *early* to the Manager, COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

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Brought forward ... £76,798	12	9½	
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James Tennant, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Kemp		10	6
*Further, for "Nurses" Beds (Serbia), per Miss C. Knox-Crawford: Co-operation of Trained Nurses, per Miss Rough and Miss Smith (third instal., £20 in all) (£5), Staff of Fife and Kinross District Asylum (£?), Colinton V.A.D., per Miss F. Macfarlane (£2 7s. 6d.), Matron and Staff of Sanatorium, Bridge of Weir (£1 15s.), per Mrs. Wyatt, Glasgow Nurses' Club £1 19s. 4d.), Nurses of "Crichton Royal," per Miss Knox Macaulay (£1 10s.), Staff of Gateshead Hospital, per Miss Gay, Matron (£1 5s.), Nurses of Southwood V.A.D. Hospital, per Miss Renwick (£1), Annsbrae Red Cross Hospital (col.-box), per Miss L'Estrange (£1), Nurses at Cramond House (col.-box), per Miss Milliamson (£1), Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital, Moffat, per Miss Macleod (£1), Matron and Staff of Mayfield Red Cross Hospital, Edinburgh (col.-box), (16s.), Burgh Fever Hospital, Kilsyth, per Miss Whyte, Matron (14s. 6d.), Nurses at Red Cross Hospital, Haddington, per Miss Kennedy, Matron (col.-box) (12s. 3d.), Hamilton and Bothwell Private Hospital, per Miss McCarthy (11s. 6d.), Staff of Deaconess's Hospital, Edinburgh (col.-box) (10s. 1½d.), Parish Hospital, Paisley (col.-box) (8s. 7½d.), Anon., Melrose (7s.), Edinburgh Nurses' Co-operation, per Miss Proudfoot and Miss Cobb (6s.), Miss Enid Rhodes (5s.), Miss Johnstone (5s.), Nurses at New Saughtonhall (4s. 6d.), Miss Frew and Friend (4s.), A Few Friends, Edinburgh (3s. 4d.), Miss Nicol (1s.), Miss A. Sawney (2s.), Miss McGuffie (2s. 6d.), Miss Mary Vass (2s. 6d.)—£25 12s. 4d. Collecting-box from Messrs. Wright (4s. 1½d.), Collecting-box from Small & Son (1s. 7d.), Collecting-box from Patrick Thomson, Edin. (14s. 3d.), Messrs. Tait (4s. 10½d.)—£1 4s. 10d.	26	17	2
Total for "Nurses" Beds (Dr. Hutchison's Unit, Serbia), £151 19s. 2d.			

	£	s.	d.
Miss Eva Maclaren (a little girl)		4	6
Miss E. I. Wood	1	0	0
Miss Munro	1	0	0
Miss Irene P. Prestwick (Serbia)		10	6
*Staff of Dunnukier Public School, per T. Melvilie, Esq., Headmaster (Serbia)...	3	1	0
*Bainsford and Grahamston Co.-op. Baking Soc., Ltd., Employees, per J. Jamieson, Esq. (Serbia)	3	3	0
Kingston Yard, Port Glasgow, to endow "Kingston Yard, Port Glasgow Bed," from Employees, Russell & Co., Shipbuilders (Royaumont) ...	50	0	0
*Collection taken at Intercessory Service, Ladyloan U.F. Church, Arbroath, per A. Symon, Esq.	1	3	3
Past and Present Students of St. Denis School, per Miss A. Bourdass, to name "St. Denis" Bed (Royaumont) ...	50	0	0
Proceeds of Sir Edward Parrott's Meeting, per Miss S. E. S. Mair	16	12	0½
Mrs. Buchanan (Serbia) ...	2	0	0
Leven W.S.S., per Mrs. Reid, Hon. Treas., Viewforth, Leven, to continue "Leven" Bed for further six months in "Margaret of Scotland" Ward, Royaumont	25	0	0
*Per Mrs. Reid, Hon. Treas. Leven W.S.S., for Invalid Chair (Royaumont)	7	15	0
*Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy's Employees, Kilmarnock, per Mrs. Robertson, 6th instalment to complete "Glenfield & Kennedy's Employees' Bed No. II." (Serbia)	14	10	10
*Miss Railton, per Mrs. Robertson		10	0
*Mrs. Donald, proceeds of Whist Drive, per Mrs. Robertson...	10	0	0
From Bible Class of Working Girls, per Miss M. H. Taylor (Serbia)		5	6
Mrs. Herbertson	5	0	0
*Per Miss M. Lennox, Matron, further for "Bideford Hospital" Bed (Serbia)	10	0	0
The Misses Hamel & Petrie ...		5	0
Mrs. Davies, for "Mrs. W. A. Davies" Bed (Serbia, Dr. Hutchison's Hospital) ...	25	0	0
*Proceeds of Public Sale and Tea, per Miss Margaret Shanks, to name two beds in France and two in Serbia, each, "Egremont Cumberland" Beds, and "Egremont Castle" Beds	100	0	0
Various small sums collected in Pickering and District, per Miss Priestman		14	6
*Sixteenth instal. from Paisley W.S.S. and Friends, per Miss Mary G. Todd, Hon. Treas., to continue "Fourth Paisley" Bed (France) for further six months	25	0	0
Collection at G.F.S. Intercession Service at Coventry, per Mrs. Arbuthnot (Serbia) ...	3	6	4
Per Miss Nancy Duncan, from eight school girls ...		8	0
Anon., per Messrs. Duncan & Hartley	25	0	0
Proceeds of Progressive Games Party given by Miss Jean Gemmill and Miss Margaret Boyle (Serbia)	7	10	0
Teachers of Bo'ness Public School, per James Dunlop, Esq., Headmaster (Serbia) ...	2	10	0
*Staff and Pupils of Finnart School, per W. B. Ingram, Esq., Headmaster	1	0	0
*Per Miss Edith McIlroy, per Miss E. E. Ure, from the "West District of Scottish Women's Hockey Clubs" (For Dr. McIlroy's use in connection with her Unit, Salonika)	5	0	0
Staff of Glebe School, per R. Thexton, Esq., Headmaster (Serbia)		14	0
Mrs. H. Collins (Serbia) ...	2	0	0
*Miss Scott, per Miss M. E. Robertson, further towards first "Innerleithen and Walkerburn" Bed		12	4
*Per Miss Lucy H. Soutar, for "December Bed of Memories" (Serbia)	25	0	0
Mrs. Whyte (Serbia)	2	0	0
*Dundee W.S.S., per Miss E. A. Macintyre, Hon. Treas., "A Friend," for upkeep of "Dundee" Beds (Royaumont) (£50), A few friends in Ryehall U.F. Church, Dundee, per Rev. Dr. Aitken, for Dr. Hutchison's Hospital, Serbia (£2 17s. 6d.), Staff and Pupils of Higher Grade School, per Mr. W. M. Wilsher, Headmaster (further) (£20) ...	72	17	6
*Miss F. L. Marshall		5	0
Total ...	£77,386	7	8

* Denotes additional donation.

ERRATUM NOTE.—"Johnson H. Wood Memorial" Bed, in list of December 3rd, should have read "2nd year" instead of 2nd 6 months.—Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Barclaven, Kilmacolm.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Ardgowan Street, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Women's Freedom League, Glasgow," 2nd 6 months (Serbia)	Women's Freedom League, per Miss M. Steven, Hon. Treas.
"Burton-on-Trent," 2 beds (Serbia, Dr. Hutchison)	Proceeds of Serbian Flag Day, Burton-on-Trent, per Mrs. McGregor, Stanhope, Bretly, Burton-on-Trent.
"Launceston" (2 beds), (Serbia, Dr. Inglis)	Per Mrs. Walpole, Riverscourt, Devonport, Tasmania.
Bradford W.S.S. (Serbia, Dr. Inglis) ...	Bradford W.S.S., per Miss Nachbar, 136, Manningham Road, Bradford.
"Paisley" (1st bed, France), 3rd 6 months	Miss Coats, Broomhall, Alyth, per Miss M. G. Todd, Hon. Treas., Paisley W.S.S.
"Paisley" (2nd bed, France), 3rd 6 months	Miss L. Coats, Broowhall, Alyth, per Miss Todd
"Paisley Potterhill" (Serbia), 3rd 6 months	Mrs. M. F. Lang, The Glen, per Miss Todd.
"Kilmarnock W.S.S." (Dr. McIlroy's Hospital, Salonica), 6 months ...	Per Mrs. Robertson, Morningside, Kilmarnock.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Patriotic Housekeeping and Child Welfare.

The Patriotic Housekeeping and Child Welfare Exhibition, at Cardiff, closed on Saturday, December 4th, with a public meeting, organised jointly by the Band of Hope Union and the Suffrage Society. The speakers were Archdeacon Buckley, of Llandaff; Miss Helen Fraser, and Dr. Newton, of London University. Miss Foxley took the chair. Mr. Curle, author of a forcible pamphlet, "Stop! Read! Think!" and founder of the United Workers, was to have addressed the meeting, but being under doctor's orders to do no public sepeaking, he brought Dr. Newton to speak in his place. The speeches were all excellent. Archdeacon Buckley spoke from the Temperance point of view; the other speakers from the economic. Miss Fraser was, as usual, clear and forcible, and made one marvel at her grasp of the subject and her memory for figures. Dr. Newton, we feel sure, must have sent every thoughtful person away more deeply impressed with the gravity of the situation and the need for personal sacrifice and economy. We cannot win to victory through vicarious suffering; every man and woman at home must enlist in the war against waste and indulgence, and only in proportion as we do this shall we get through the dark days of industrial depression, which are bound to come. If the citizens of Britain could yet be stirred to one united effort of work and sacrifice a more speedy victory might yet be ours. Otherwise, Dr. Newton hinted at the dark possibility of another and more terrible Hundred Years' War.

It was evident throughout the week that the greatest attractions were the Haybox Cookery demonstrations by Mrs. Hawkins' and Miss Petty's wonderful demonstration lectures. These were always crowded. One woman, after listening to Mrs. Hawkins, went home and set up her haybox at once, to the great interest of her neighbours and the entire street. Gas bills will be reduced enormously in one street in Cardiff, at any rate. Mrs. Hawkins is, by the way, the originator of haybox cooking in this country, and is one of those enthusiastic lecturers who make converts as a matter of course.

The modest sum of 2d. was demanded of those who crowded to hear the two excellent demonstrations, and could afford to pay it, but one old gentleman, after paying one penny admission to the exhibition, was so disgusted at being asked for another 2d. that he wanted his money back. His point seemed to be that we should have charged 3d. at the door and nothing extra for the demonstration. The fact that he could get two free lectures and a concert for his 1d., besides the view of the exhibits, did not in the least pacify him; but there will always be grumblers!

One short-sighted old lady, after reading The Common Cause poster, asked what night the Munition Workers would be on view. Perhaps a Patriotic Industries Exhibition will supersede the Sweated Industries Exhibitions we used to hold long ago, before the war; let us hope it will not be the same thing under a different name. To return to the Housekeeping Exhibition, when we packed up at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, we hoped it had been worth the labour and expense, and if the latter is not quite covered, it is, at any rate, not far short. Perhaps the Cardiff Society will be able to follow up the teaching by taking the hay-box, the hints on economy, and the gospel of the "United Workers" into the homes of the people; then it will certainly have been worth while.

Kent Endows Bed for Another Year.

Last year the Kentish Federation endowed a bed at the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service at Royaumont. It was felt that this bed ought to be endowed for another year at the cost of £50, and that any extra money that was collected should go to help the Serbian Units. The societies in Kent were therefore circularised, with the satisfactory result that £60 10s. was collected. The Shoreham and Otford Branch held a drawing-room meeting to a very interested audience on November 18th, at which £3 was collected, and the Sevenoaks Branch held a singularly successful public meeting on November 19th. Miss Beatrice Hunter spoke at both these. The Sevenoaks meeting was illustrated with lantern slides, and Miss Hunter roused so much interest and enthusiasm for the hospitals amongst her audience that, as a result, £50 9s. 6d. was collected. Maidstone also held a drawing-room meeting, which was addressed by Mrs. Bertrand Russell on December 4th. The weather was unfortunately very bad, which prevented many people from coming. However, those who came were exceedingly interested in Mrs. Russell's lecture, and £1 was collected. A member of the Tunbridge Wells Branch contributed 10s., and a member of the Deal and Walmer Branch 10s. 6d., and £5 was sent from the Tonbridge Branch. The money has been sent to Mrs. Laurie, the Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, who wishes her very cordial and grateful thanks conveyed to all those who have so kindly subscribed.

Economic Housekeeping at Woodford.

The Woodford Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. held a most successful afternoon meeting on Wednesday, December 8th, at the Woodford Conservatoire. The chair was taken by Mrs. Webster, of Highams Park. Mrs. Caborne delivered an excellent address on "Economic Housekeeping," the questions put to the lecturer at the close showed how keenly her audience had followed her discourse. The announcement by the Hon. Sec. of the Committee's decision to arrange a course of cooking demonstration lectures to be given by Mrs. Munday, a member of the West Essex Food Reform Association, met with hearty approval. Several new members were enrolled.

A Whist Drive in Aid of the Scottish Hospitals.

Arranged by the committee of the Herne Bay Society for Women's Suffrage, a successful whist drive took place at the Queen's Hotel on Friday December 3rd in aid of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' Hospitals at the Front, the rooms at the hotel having been kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon. The event proved a great success, some eighty-six people being present. The M.C. was Mr. Denny, a member of the committee; while the stewards were Miss Mary L. Pendered (President), Mrs. Cowper Field (Hon. Secretary), and Councillor Cowper Field (Chairman). The Chairman of the Council and Mrs. Cursons had intended to be present, but were prevented at the last moment. Light refreshments were served during an interval, and the arrangements reflected great credit on all concerned. After paying all expenses the net sum in hand was £5 15s. 4d.

A Lantern Lecture.

In spite of the inclement weather, a fair number attended Mr. Claude Lyon's second lecture in aid of the Bournemouth Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. Hospital Bed Fund, at Trinity Hall, on Thursday afternoon. The lecture opened with a brief account of the "Crimea of Yesterday," illustrated with views of the Crimea taken by Mr. Lyon himself. The audience were next transported to the shores of "Dardanelles as they are to-day," where the old Allies are now fighting their former friend, in union with their former foe. A graphic account of the terrific nature of the fighting on this rocky and precipitous coast, followed, illustrated with excellent maps and views, which brought home the difficulties and dangers surmounted by our brave men. In thrilling words Mr. Lyon described the bombarding of the forts by our Fleet, the exploits of our gallant submarines, and the unsurpassed valour of our troops at the disembarkation. Most interesting slides were shown in illustration.

Cookery Demonstrations.

The Purley Society of the National Union, in conjunction with the Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage Society, have just been holding a successful series of practical cookery demonstrations, under the title of "Patriotic Housekeeping and How Best to Manage in War-Time." Two excellent demonstrators, belonging to the National Food Economy League, explained and demonstrated to interested and attentive hearers the mysteries of the Hay-Box method, of home-made bread, and the secrets of how to make appetising and nourishing dishes out of materials usually wasted. Many useful hints were given as to the food value of the various vegetable products, and the right way of cooking them. Much local interest has been aroused by the effort.

Women's Duty in War Time.

A meeting of village members and friends was held at the Secretary's house, Great Missenden, on November 18th. Miss N. Martineau spoke on "Women's Work and Duty in War-Time," and the members decided to organise some work and a rummage sale for the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Some of the branches have been collecting contributions for the Christmas Sale of the Professional Classes Relief Fund. Little Kingshill has collected money and goods to the value of sixteen guineas, and Chesham to the value of £10, and there are smaller amounts from other places.

Common Cause Special Number.

Oxford Women's Suffrage Society.—Sale of The Common Cause, special hospital number, Saturday, November 13th. About a dozen sellers were collected with some difficulty, for members of our Society, for the most part, have their time and hands full with various forms of war work. Twenty dozen copies of The Common Cause had been ordered, and these went so fast that we had to fetch more from local stationers, who, by the way, were uniformly willing to display the poster and to receive copies of the paper on sale. One leading stationer, who preferred to order his extra copies, told us that his usual sale is three dozen. If any copies were left, it was with those of us who wanted to send them to friends. So we cleared out, and wished we had ordered a larger number.

Obituary.

Bristol has lost within the last two or three weeks two much-valued Suffragists. Professor Barrell died suddenly on December 2nd, in the prime of life and in the midst of a brilliant career as Professor of Mathematics at the University of Bristol.

From his first coming to Bristol both he and Mrs. Barrell gave whole-hearted sympatthy and support to Suffrage work, and he soon became a V.P. of the Society. He never refused a request to speak on Suffrage platforms, where his terse and pithy speeches, his strong and delightful personality, and his position in Bristol made his help most valuable.

His death is greatly mourned in Bristol, and not least by Suffragists who have indeed lost a most true friend.

Miss Maria Colby, who died on November 28th, has been for some years an invalid and unable to take part in public work. There seems, therefore, all the more need to recall with gratitude her great services in the past. In the 'eighties there was very great Suffrage enthusiasm and activity in Bristol, and Miss Colby worked with the Misses Priestman, Dr. and Mrs. Beddoe, Miss Blackburn and other veterans, making Bristol a centre for the West of England.

In those early days of the movement hopes were high for speedy success. Neither effort nor money was stinted, and work was undertaken with joyous zest. Miss Colby did the arduous part of travelling round in the West, doing the work of a skilled organiser before it had become a profession, and combining great dignity and grace of manner with tremendous force and energy. She came of a race of heroes, and her devotion to the work was truly heroic.

To this was added an unusually strong sense of humour, which carried her through many difficult passages and helped her to win her way with all sorts and conditions of men and women.

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A Sale of Work at Barrow.

A sale of work in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia was held, on December 2nd, at the Old Town Hall. The Hon. Mrs. Hanbury presided, supported by the Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs. Bliss, Colonel and Mrs. Nelson, Major Rodgers, and other influential ladies and gentlemen. Interesting speeches were made, showing the Serbians' great need of help at this crisis, and an appeal was made for the support of local funds. £173 was realised, and it is hoped to increase this sum to £200.

Meeting at Tiverton.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Lear, a meeting was held at Bank House, on December 1st, when more than eighty articles of equipment of all description were received and packed for despatch to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The sum of £2 was also received. After tea, Miss Willcocks, the well-known author, talked to us in her usual inspiring way about the work of the Hospital Units, and also about war economy, and interested everyone present. We hope to hold little meetings monthly, when members and friends will bring all they can for the Hospitals.

Lantern Lecture at Olton.

A special effort in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia has been made by the Olton Women's Suffrage Society, under whose auspices a lantern lecture was arranged on December 3rd, in St. Margaret's Schools. The chair was taken by Dr. Lunn. The lecturer, Dr. Mary Phillips, told, from personal experience some of the difficulties with which hospital work is faced in that suffering country. She also touched on the fine work of the Units in France. The Committee are glad to announce that, as the result of this effort, they have been able to remit £5 to the Scottish Women's Hospitals funds, and to send a bale of hospital stores and clothing (value over £11) to be forwarded to Serbia.

A Lantern Lecture.

On Monday, December 6th, at the Carnegie Library, WEST BROMWICH, Dr. Mary Phillips, who has just returned from Serbia, gave a lantern lecture on the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals at Calais, Malta, and Serbia. The meeting was arranged by the West Bromwich Women's Suffrage Society, and the chair was taken by Mrs. Pickles. An enthusiastic audience listened intently to all that Dr. Phillips had to tell them of the work and adventures of the Scottish Women's Unit, of which she was senior physician. Various trophies from Serbia were shown round. A collection was made which amounted to £11, which is to go towards the Central Counties' Bed.

A Defence of Soldiers' Wives.

Councillor W. E. Hincks, Secretary of the LEICESTER War Relief Committee (also Chairman of the Watch Committee and Secretary to the C.O.S.), at the meeting of the War Emergency Committee, on November 29th, made the following statement :—

"Speaking personally—and every worker at New Street [War Relief Office] confirmed it—he could not complain in the least degree of the conduct of soldiers' wives, of whom 5,000 were registered. They had no evidence to justify them in saying that there was an increase in the amount of drink consumed by the women in the town. He said this after the most careful investigation of the cases brought to New Street. It was true they had a few cases of prosecution for neglect of children, but in every instance each of the cases had been known to the societies concerned for years."

A Serbian Flag Day.

On the outbreak of war the BURTON-ON-TRENT Society decided to stop all active Suffrage propaganda, as the members would all be actively engaged in war-work of various kinds. They decided to make a small contribution (4d. or 6d. a month), and from this £1 has been sent every month to one of the war funds.

In the spring our Hon. Secretary, Miss Marion Nicolls, joined the second Serbian Unit, and our interest in Serbia was greatly stimulated. This resulted in a Serbian Flag Day on October 22nd, when we realised the sum of £129. Of this, £4 was allocated to the Midland Federation Bed, and £125 was forwarded to Mrs. Laurie, Greenock, for beds and general expenses in Serbia.

Our members' activities have been varied. Some have organised wool funds, some have helped in recruiting, canvassing or clerical work, and some have joined the staff of the local Red Cross Hospital.

All-Day Working Party.

A very successful effort to raise much-needed equipment for the Serbian Scottish Women's Hospitals was made by means of an All-Day Working Party, held on Thursday, December 9th. It was held under the ægis of the local Red Cross Committee, and organised by the WORCESTER Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. The Mayor kindly lent two Council chambers in the Guildhall, which, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., were kept filled with busy workers, one room being devoted to sewing machines and bandage rollers, the other to hand-sewing and knitting.

By 10 a.m. a stream of workers began to arrive, who were rapidly dealt with by the numerous stewards, names and addresses being first taken, then each one's particular talent discovered, when they were handed over to the head of their department, who immediately set them to work at their chosen task. In almost less time than it takes to write, practically a hundred people were seated, working for dear life, it having been impressed on them that there were only ten short hours in which much had to be achieved. No sooner was a garment out of the hands of the machinists, than it was dashed across to the sewers to be finished, and then back to the receiver and packed ready for transit to Scotland. By the end of the day between 200 and 300 people had taken part in the proceedings, which resulted in 804 articles being made, including 325 roller bandages, the rest consisting of pyjama suits, bed jackets, draw sheets, towels, many tailed bandages, &c.

I hope that many more of these All-Day Working Parties will be held, as many people who could not possibly attend a weekly or monthly one will give up one day.

Forthcoming Meetings.

DECEMBER 17.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" 4.30

DECEMBER 20.

Kennington—British Women's Temperance Association, Moffat Institute, Esher Street—Lantern lecture on the Scottish Women's Hospitals—Speaker: Miss Burke; Chair: Miss Deverell

DECEMBER 23.

Wallasey and Wirral—St. Paul's Schools, Seacombe—Tipperary Club 8.0—10.0

Working Parties.

Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48A, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 2nd and 4th Monday in the month, 2.0

Blackheath and Greenwich Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk Every Tuesday, 2.0—6.0

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Monday, 2.30, and every Thursday at 8.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals—Every Wednesday 3.0—6.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party—Every Monday, 3.0

Buxton—At Collinson's Café—Sewing Meeting for Manchester and District Field Hospital—Visitors invited Every Thursday, 2.30

Eastbourne—At the Club, 134, Terminus Road—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals in France and Serbia Every Monday, 2.30—4.30

Guildford—"Maesmor," East Horsley—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 5.0

Highgate—Working Party for L.S.W.S. Sale of Work—Hostess, Mrs. Garnett, 26, West Hill, Highgate Every Wednesday, 3.0—5.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street Every Tuesday, 2.30

Paddington—31, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Port Talbot—In room over Recruiting Office—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Wednesday, 6—8.30

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party Every Monday, 2.45

Shipley and Baildon—Ladies' Parlour of Saltaire Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting on December 30th, and fortnightly 2.30

Solihull—Church House—Working Party for making comforts for the Italian troops Every Monday, 3.0

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 2 to 4.30

Wakefield—"The Laurels," St. John's North—Sewing Party. Every Wednesday, 2.30—6.0 and 7.0—9.0

Warwick and Leamington—35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Working Party to make Sand Bags Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.30

Church League for Women's Suffrage.

The next War Time Intercession Service, organised by the Church League for Women's Suffrage, will be held on Saturday, December 18th, at 3 p.m., at St. Martin-in-the-Fields; preacher, the Rev. Canon Scott-Holland, D.D.

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